

# Kittery's Road to Zero Waste

Updated Jan. 25, 2013

## What is Zero Waste?

Zero Waste is a principle that goes beyond recycling to focus on reducing waste, reusing products and then recycling and composting the rest. Zero Waste works to redesign our waste recovery system in order to mimic natural systems found in our environment.

Natural resources have been used as the basis of economies throughout the world for thousands of years. Until recently, societies have used a linear production-consumption-disposal system. In other words, production systems traditionally go one way; from the earth to the dump.

### **A Zero Waste System is cyclical, like in nature, and does two fundamental things:**

- It redesigns our systems and use of resources to prevent wasteful and polluting practices that lead to the waste of resources
- It captures and uses them to make new products, which creates far less pollution

### **Implementing Zero Waste initiatives has potential to:**

- Generate new local green jobs in recycling and organics collection and processing, materials reuse and repair, and remanufacturing
- Reduce Kittery's annual greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce Kittery's dependence on landfills and/or incinerators
- Reduce short and long term operating expenses to our taxpayers
- Reduce costs, increased services, and shared resources by developing partnerships
- Continue being conscientious stewards of our environment for the current and future generations living in and around Kittery, Maine

*Zero Waste is a goal that is an ethical, economical, efficient and visionary to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to imitate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for other to use.*

*"Excerpted from The Restorative Economy by Paul Hawken"*